

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3609

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PK, XF

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST ISSUE IN SECURITY COUNCIL

1. PAK PRESS OF JANUARY 11 CARRIES REPORT FROM "OFFICIAL SOURCES" OF GOP STAND, AS SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBER, ON MID-EAST ISSUE. REPORT STATES THAT GOP IS IN TOUCH WITH ARAB COUNTRIES IN AN ATTEMPT TO COORDINATE ITS POSITION ON SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON MIDDLE EAST. SIGNIFICANT POINTS, AS REPORTED BY PAKISTAN TIMES, AS FOLLOWS:

A. AT PRESENT NO AGREED FRAMEWORK EXISTS WITHIN WHICH A COMPREHENSIVE AND LASTING SETTLEMENT CAN BE ACHIEVED. RESOLUTION 242 REFERS TO SOLUTION TO PROBLEM OF PALESTINIAN "REFUGEES". ARAB STATES AND PLO RIGHTLY CONSIDER REFERENCE TO PALESTINIAN QUESTION AS BEING MERELY A HUMANITARIAN ONE NOT CONSISTENT WITH DICTATES OF JUSTICE OR WITH EVOLUTION WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE IN MID-EAST SINCE 1967. A SOLUTION OF PALESTINIAN QUESTION IS ESSENTIAL ISSUE IN FINAL SETTLEMENT OF MID-EAST CONFLICT, AND ANY REALISTIC INTERPRETATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 HAS TO INCLUDE FULFILLMENT OF LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

B. THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH APPEARS TO HAVE EXHAUSTED POSSIBILITIES TO ADDRESS ITSELF TO TOTALITY

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OF MIDDLE EAST QUESTION. ALL SIGNS INDICATE THAT MOMENT HAS COME TO FIND A SOLUTION, ON BASIS OF

ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES INCLUDING JERUSALEM, WHICH ALSO TAKES INTO ACCOUNT NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE (AS INCORPORATED IN THE 29TH UNGA RESOLUTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE).

C. FORTHCOMING DEBATE CONTAINS CONSTRUCTIVE POSSIBILITIES FOR A FUNDAMENTAL ADVANCE ON THE ISSUE OF PALESTINIAN NATIONAL RIGHTS BUT ONLY IF ARAB COUNTRIES ARE UNITED IN THEIR APPROACH, AND IF PLO PARTICIPATES ON AN EQUAL BASIS.

D. PAKISTAN WILL DO ALL THAT IT CAN TO PROMOTE ARAB CONSENSUS AND HOPES THAT ITS EFFORTS IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL WITH ASIAN AND AFRICAN STATES ON A JOINT BASIS WILL LEAD TO FORMULATION OF A RESOLUTION WHICH A MAJORITY CAN ADOPT. PAKS HAVE IN MIND LIBYA BENIN, TANZANIA (AND HOPEFULLY) OTHERS LIKE JAPAN, GUYANA, ROMANIA, AND HOPE FOR WIDER COLLABORATION WITH COUNTRIES LIKE ITALY AND SWEDEN AS WELL AS PERMANENT MEMBERS OF SECURITY COUNCIL.

2. COMMENT: PAKS, WHO ATTEMPT TO REMAIN NEUTRAL IN ISSUES WHICH INVOLVE ARAB DISAGREEMENT, ARE OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED THAT THERE BE UNANIMITY IN ARAB CAMP ON THIS ISSUE. THEY CAN BE COUNTED ON TO SUPPORT WHATEVER THEY READ AS ARAB CONSENSUS.  
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